



Work-Site Learning Experiences

Learning Experience	Description
Shadowing	This is a short-term experience in which the student is assigned to a supervising adult who provides information rather than direction or instruction on his or her position.
Cooperative Education	This technique includes a well structured plan that integrates classroom knowledge with productive work experiences in the business/industry; often helps a student clarify career goals.
Clinical Experience	This experience must be conducted under very close supervision and linked closely with related classroom study; Health Occupations programs use this technique.
On-the-Job Training	This training occurs in the actual workplace and requires active involvement of a work-site trainer, but no involvement by the school.
School-Linked Summer Employment	Summer experiences allow students to have meaningful full-time jobs. When linked to a career area of interest, it can reinforce the school-based part of the student's educational experience.
Community Service Learning	This experience can help the community and provide students with opportunities to practice broad work skills while making contacts for future employment opportunities
Apprenticeship	This long-term experience moves students outside the traditional school environment to a specialized industry-based work site. Teachers work closely with industry instructors and mentors to jointly create and deliver curriculum and to discuss, guide, and monitor student progress. Certification may result.

Advantages of Work-Site Learning

- Training occurs under “real world” conditions.
- The trainee performs the actual job tasks that are required for the job.
- The instructor (mentor) can perform regular duties while supervising trainees.
- Training is conducted on a one-on-one basis; students receive individualized instruction.

Potential Disadvantages of Work-Site Learning

- Noise in the area may be distracting.
- Opportunities may be limited by scheduling constraints and business demands.
- The experience may be too informal and unstructured.

Source: *Implementing a Local School-to-Work Partnership: A Series of How-To Modules*, Module 9—Work-Based Learning, School-to-Work Division, Oklahoma Department of Vocational and Technical Education, ©1996.